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ISSUE 12

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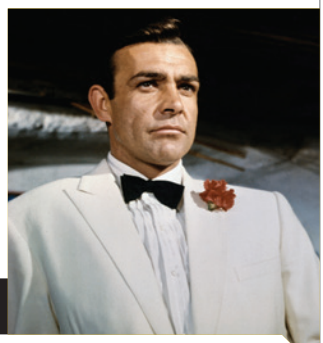
EDITORS LETTER

I normally ramble on about things myself on this page but since our cover features James Bond and we lost the original James Bond, Sean Connery, earlier this year I'm going to turn it over to *Geek* Editorial Consultant Mark A. Altman and Senior Editor Ed Gross for this tribute of thoughts from their best-selling oral history about 007, *Nobody Does It Better*. The hardest part was finding a photo of Bond without a cigarette or gun in his hand!



Sean Connery *In Memoriam*

CHARLES ARDAI **(editor, *Hard Case Crime*)**
In the books, Bond is a rather unlikable fellow: bitter, angry, violent. The filmmakers had to retain the violence while amping up the man's charisma and appeal. Somehow, he had to enter the chrysalis of adaptation and emerge as Sean Connery. Not a small transformation.

JOHN CORK
I think Connery was the closest to Fleming's Bond by a wide margin. It is the Connery of *Dr. No* and *From Russia With Love* who is Fleming's Bond, the Connery who stays out too late at a casino, who has flashes of real anger, who has genuine distaste for the senseless deaths that are too often part of his job.

FRED DEKKER **(director, *The Monster Squad*)**
Even as an 8-year-old, I knew that Sean Connery was a movie star. It was the first time I looked at somebody on screen and then wanted to act like them out in the street when I left the theater. I think that was the generation that idolized Connery Bond as the male role model.

YAPHET KOTTO **(actor, "Dr. Kanaga/Mr. Big," *Live & Let Die*)**
Most of my favorite Bond pictures are all Sean Connery films. It was there in all of the movies that Connery did. It's always there with him. Even in *Never Say Never Again*, it's there. He is James Bond.

CHRISTIAN SLATER **(actor, *The Name of the Rose*)**
I got to work with Sean Connery when I was a kid. I did *The Name of the Rose* with him, and I worked with him again on *Robin Hood* when he played the king. So I've always been pretty much awestruck in his presence and found him to be a phenomenal guy. To get the chance to work with James Bond was quite thrilling.

ALBERT R. BROCCOLI **(producer, The James Bond Films)**
Ian Fleming is responsible for what we put on the screen. Harry Saltzman and myself, when we first started—being Americans—saw Bond as a more macho kind of guy yet he had to be British. We were very lucky in finding the type we thought Americans would like as Bond when we came across Sean. When I first met him it was at a cocktail party, and he appealed to me as a very natural type. We thought he would be good for it.
— Mark A. Altman & Edward Gross

I couldn't say it any better than that!

Jeff Bond
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
DECEMBER 2020

geek

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MATURE 17+
M
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Blood and Gore
Intense Violence
Nudity
Strong Language
Strong Sexual Content
Use of Drugs and Alcohol

PLAYS GREAT ALSO ON XBOX SERIES X AND PS5

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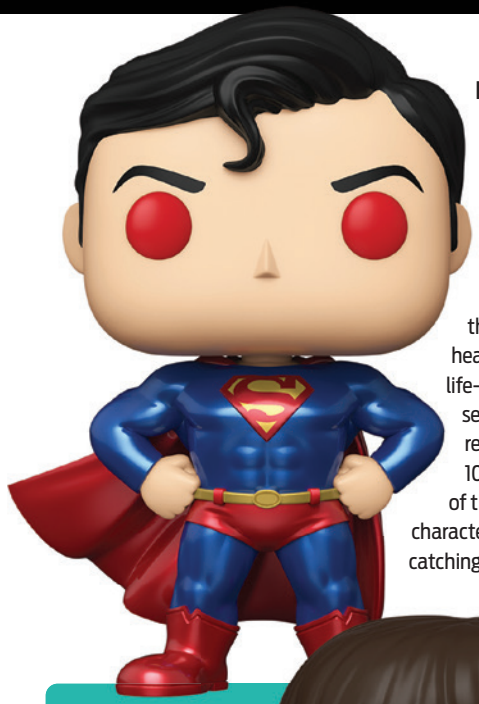
GEEKY THINGS HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

It's been a long year so, mercifully, it's finally time to say goodbye to 2020 and usher in 2021. But before we do that, it's a great time to celebrate the holidays by spreading the geek love with someone you love—or even like a little—or just treat yourself. We know you're busy so the editors of GEEK have scoured the globe—and the galaxy—to curate a list of some of the coolest geek holiday gifts this season that anyone would be happy to find in their stocking this winter. Or, at the very least, allow you to put those gift cards to good use.

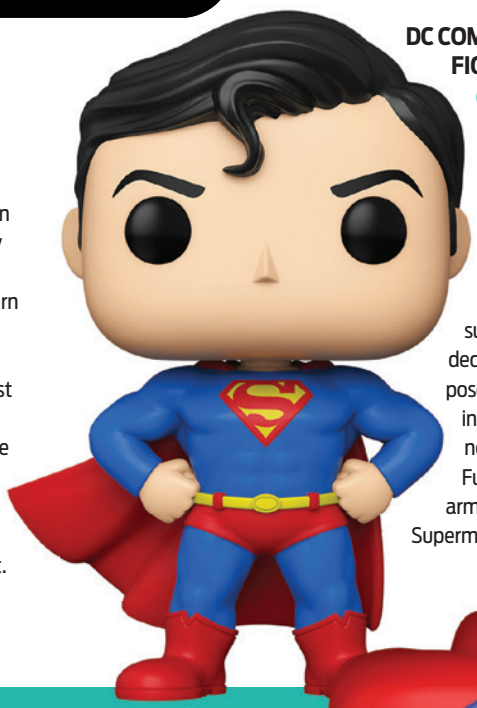
By the Editors of Geek



DC COMICS SUPERMAN "RED EYE" 10" FIGURE

(FUNKO POP!)

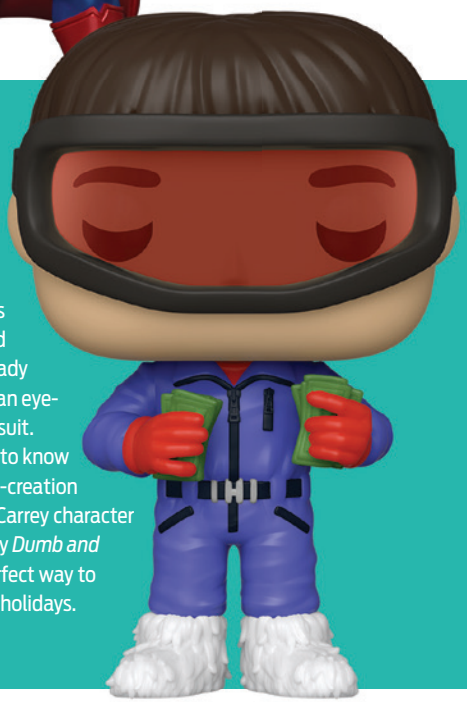
You know you've gotten the Man of Steel angry when his eyes glow red with that "I'm gonna burn the place down with my heat vision" stare. But that life-threatening situation just seems adorable when you reduce it to this extra-large 10" Funko POP! version of the famed comic book character that boasts an eye-catching metallic blue super-suit.



DC COMICS SUPERMAN 10" FIGURE

(FUNKO POP!)

If you're intimidated by Superman's devastating heat vision it's good to know that you can enjoy an equally oversized 10" figure of the world's greatest superhero striking a decidedly nonjudgmental pose. His spit curl is perfectly in place, eyes a soothing, normal (well, normal for Funko) black color and arms akimbo in the classic Superman pose.



DUMB AND DUMBER SKI LLOYD CHRISTMAS

(FUNKO POP!)

He's got two fistfuls of cash, a pair of red goggles and he's ready to hit the slopes in an eye-catching blue jumpsuit. That's all you need to know about this Funko re-creation of the beloved Jim Carrey character from the hit comedy *Dumb and Dumber*. It's the perfect way to celebrate the chilly holidays.

DUMB AND DUMBER SKI HARRY DUNNE

(FUNKO POP!)

Harry was always the slightly less dumb one out of the *Dumb and Dumber* pair Harry and Lloyd... wasn't he? At any rate, Harry (portrayed in the film by an incredibly game Jeff Daniels) looks a whole lot better prepared for a downhill ski run than Lloyd looks in this Funko re-creation featuring Harry in a bright red outfit and hat, blue skis and poles, plus a pair of hanging goggles.

CLARK GRISWOLD WITH STATION WAGON

(FUNKO POP! RIDES)

Get ready to hit the Holiday Road with this Funko POP! Walmart exclusive of Clark Griswold and family packing up their station wagon for another *Christmas Vacation*. Great for your desk, your tree... or just for going on vacation.

STAR WARS ARCADE MACHINE W/ RISER

(ARCADE1UP)

Playing this game ain't like bulls-eyeing womp rats back home, boy. Make the Death Star run over and over again in this loving tribute to the legendary vector graphics *Star Wars* arcade game, which you can now bring home in this fabulous re-creation by our friends at Arcade1Up. With the *Star Wars* Arcade Machine with Riser, the Force Will Be With You...Always.

STAR WARS: THE BLACK SERIES - AHSOKA TANO

(HASBRO)

There has been a great disturbance in the force, have you felt it? One of the saga's most popular characters gets her own Black Series 6-inch replica: Anakin's young apprentice, Ahsoka Tano. After becoming one of the saga's most beloved characters in *The Clone Wars*, Ahsoka Tano returned in *Star Wars Rebels* and is now set to make her live-action debut in *The Mandalorian*. And she can debut at your home this holiday season with this splendid Black Series replica.

STAR WARS: THE VINTAGE COLLECTION - DIN DJARIN (THE MANDALORIAN) & THE CHILD TOYS

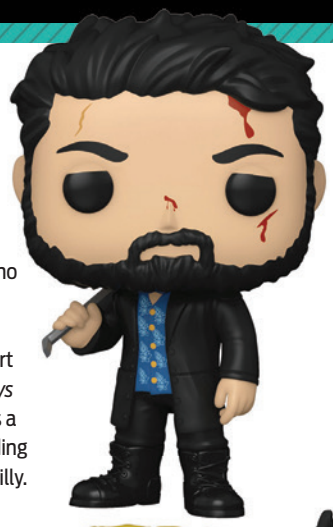
(HASBRO)

Get Baby Yoda home with your very own 3.75 scale Walmart exclusive of Din Djarin in full Mandalorian armor (and removable helmet) along with the Child in vintage Kenner toy packaging as they continue to make their way across a galaxy far, far away in this great replica of the Mandalorian and his young, green charge. This is the way.

PHIL CONNORS WITH PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL

(FUNKO POP!)

How many more weeks of winter? You won't care when you can re-enact every day again and again with this great *Groundhog's Day* Funko POP! of Bill Murray's Phil Connors and everyone's favorite groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil. Just remember, don't drive angry.



THE BOYS' BILLY BUTCHER

(FUNKO POP! TV)

One of our absolute favorite actors has to be Karl Urban, who just steals every movie he's in (and is a big, self-professed *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* fan) so we were thrilled when we found out that Funko POP! was putting out this Walmart exclusive Bloody Billy Butcher from the sensational *The Boys* TV series in which Urban plays a one-man wrecking crew as a human fighting against super-powered superheroes, including the seemingly all-powerful Homelander. Our money is on Billy.

MARVEL ZOMBIE 10" WOLVERINE

(FUNKO POP!)

What kind of a world do we live in where even Marvel superheroes aren't safe from the threat of becoming shambling zombies? This decaying version of Wolverine, everyone's favorite, reluctant X-Man is falling apart so much that his pure adamantium skeleton is showing, but we know from countless *X-Men* movies and comic books that a little thing like total body disintegration isn't going to keep Wolverine down, so it sure as heck isn't going to stop Zombie Wolverine.

MARVEL 10" ZOMBIE DEADPOOL

(FUNKO POP!)

Say what? We're trying to wrap our heads around a zombie Deadpool but we're guessing that the Merc with a Mouth is probably still making wisecracks long after he's succumbed to a full-blown zombie state—after all, we've seen him go through worse indignities in his movies.

MARVEL MAGNETO 10" ZOMBIE BOBBLEHEAD

(FUNKO POP!)

What's more intimidating than the classic *X-Men* villain Magneto? How about a desiccated, one-eyed zombie version of the metal-attracting foe? We'll actually go that one better by making this charmingly stylized yet still creepy Funko POP! figure an astonishing 10 inches in size! Add a left hand glowing with translucent blue magnetizing power and you've got just about the most collectible bad guy you can imagine.

MARVEL 10" ZOMBIE HULK

(FUNKO POP!)

We all know the erudite saying, "Hulk smash!" But we're not so familiar with its zombie counterpart, "Hulk rot!" This hulking 10" Zombie Hulk figure is really a mess, and the zombie damage is all the more visible since Marvel's Jolly Green Giant isn't known for wearing the most modest outfits. His blank white eyes stare, his head wobbles and he seems to be missing about half of his usual mussed up hairdo. But the zombie in you will love him all the same.

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Arctis 7X

Apex 100

PLANTS VS. ZOMBIES: BATTLE FOR NEIGHBORVILLE
PLAYSTATION 4
(ELECTRONIC ARTS)

We're not sure how this whole conflict between plants and zombies started, but we do know it's gotten weirder and weirder with each new incarnation of this eye-popping EA game. It's an all-out struggle for control of Neighborville that pits shambling zombies against some of the most agile and colorful flora we've ever seen. This edition features 20 fully customizable classes at launch, and a Team Play class for each faction. Each character class' crazy abilities can be employed in six different PvP modes, including a new Battle Arena. And the Neighborville neighborhoods include one social region, three free-roam regions and one PvE mode.

JUMANJI THE VIDEO GAME
NINTENDO SWITCH
(BANDAI NAMCO)

Join Dr. Bravestone, Ruby, Mouse and Professor Oberon—or better yet BE one of the characters from the *Jumanji* movie, because it's all about taking on a new personality other than your own. Return to the adventure with a host of dangerous locations, including mountain, city and jungle environments where you can tangle with dangerous enemies, escape deadly traps and in general save the world as we know it.

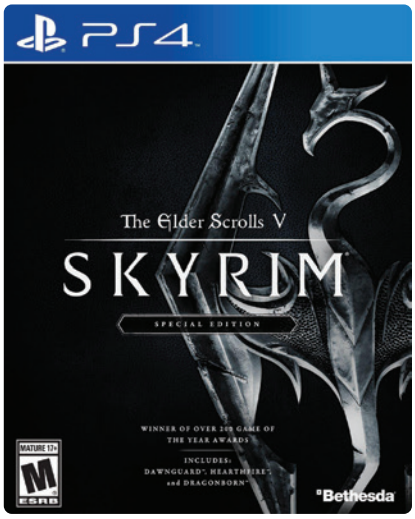
With all the strategic options, boundless new outfits and weapon styles, every round of *Jumanji* plays like a totally new situation, whether you're teaming up in split-screen modes, working together with up to three pals or with teammates brought to life by sophisticated AI, it's all in the game.

LEGO MARVEL SUPER HEROES 2
NINTENDO SWITCH
(WARNER BROS)

If you're the type of player who just can't decide whether to be heroic or evil, this eye-catching LEGO game lets you play as one of Marvel's legendary heroes or one of its infamous villains. You can roll as one of the Guardians of the Galaxy, the web-slinging Spider-Man, swing Thor's hammer, smash things as the Hulk, rock vibranium as Black Panther, cast spells as Doctor Strange or wreak mayhem as Carnage or the Green Goblin. The environments you can battle in are just as varied: Ancient Egypt, The Old West, Planet Hulk, New York City in 2099 and much more!

COBRA KAI KARATE KID SAGA
PLAYSTATION 4
(GAMEMILL)

It's been 34 years since the earthshaking events of the 1984 All Valley Karate Tournament and, well, let's just say some people never move on. Humble hero Daniel LaRusso is all grown up but that sneering bad boy Johnny Lawrence just won't leave well enough alone, and the only solution is full contact karate—but now this epic, good vs. evil struggle is in your hands. Pick which side you're on, master your moves and embrace your destiny in gaming action that can range all over Los Angeles or be confined strictly to the dojo. Take control of eight playable characters with a deep set of moves, including combos, progression, real-time character swaps, ultimate attacks and more. It's Miyagi-Do Karate vs. Cobra Kai and no matter which side you choose you'll thrill to 28 missions, RPG-like Dojo Progression and 40 unique martial arts skills to master.



ELDER SCROLLS V: SKYRIM SPECIAL EDITION

PLAYSTATION 4

(BETHESDA)

As the winner of over 200 Game of the Year awards, *Skyrim* has always been one of the most visually dazzling video games around, and now it's here for your PlayStation 4 with all-new features like remastered art and effects, volumetric god rays, dynamic depth of field, screen-space reflections and more. With an immersive, world-ranging set of environments that lets you play in everything from humble farmhouses to grimy dungeons and sprawling cities, this RPG will slake your thirst for slaying dragons or ruling empires.

CRASH BANDICOOT N. SANE TRILOGY

PLAYSTATION 4

(ACTIVISION)

The adventures of the world's most beloved marsupial have never popped more than with this new game package that combines the three Bandicoot originals, including *Crash Bandicoot, Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back* and *Crash Bandicoot: Warped,* all fully remastered in HD, with more than 100 levels and two playable characters, Crash and Coco. Eye-grabbing animations and graphics and new online leaderboards allow you to spin, wump and repeat ad infinitum.

WALMART EXCLUSIVE

MARVEL AVENGERS

PLAYSTATION 4

(SQUARE ENIX)

It's A-day, people! The Avengers are revealing a brand spanking new headquarters in San Francisco and who wouldn't want to be there to celebrate? Well, maybe you, after a catastrophic accident happens, resulting in the biggest breakup since The Beatles—the Avengers actually dis-assemble! But don't sweat it, five years later, after all superheroes are outlawed, a woman named Kamala Khan works to get the Avengers band back together to stop the mysterious new threat of AIM. This Walmart.com exclusive includes a set of six iconic patches for an epic third-person gaming experience. One-time online access required for single-player campaign; free Square Enix Members account required.

STAR WARS: SQUADRONS

XBOX ONE

(ELECTRONIC ARTS)

Nothing like piloting an X-Wing from your Xbox! EA's latest *Star Wars* adventure game puts you squarely in the cockpit of your favorite space fighter, whether it's Luke Skywalker's or Poe Dameron's X-Wing, Vader's TIE Fighter, one of those speedy little A-Wings, a cockpit pivoting B-Wing or a heavy-duty TIE Bomber. This immersive gaming experience provides all the visual excitement of an epic *Star Wars* movie, but in this one the space battles never end.

ASSASSIN'S CREED ODYSSEY

PLAYSTATION 4

(UBISOFT)

Now you can dive into the action and adventure of *Assassin's Creed* while actually learning a little something about the ancient world in this Homerian epic RPG that re-creates the epic struggle between Sparta and Athens in Ancient Greece. Strap on your armor and prepare to journey from outcast to legendary Spartan hero, exploring an entire country of surprising adversaries, savage environments and jam-packed cities. Fight in clashes that pit armies of 150 soldiers each against each other, or sail the Aegean Sea, recruiting your own ragtag crew and customizing your ship as you fend off enemy warships and explore mysterious, unmapped regions.

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LEGO STAR WARS: RETURN OF THE JEDI FINAL DUEL

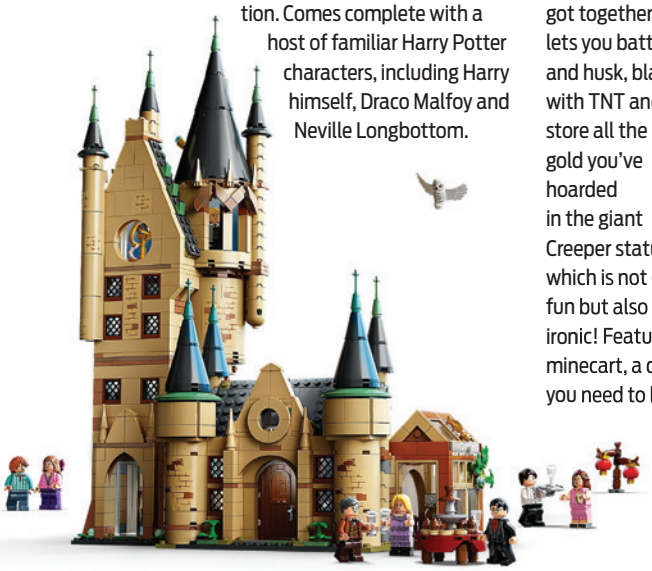
(LEGO)

If you're in the camp of "*Star Wars* ended with *Return of the Jedi*," we're not going to argue with you. And now you can relive the spectacular final conflict between Darth Vader, Luke Skywalker and Emperor Palpatine with this stunning, lovingly detailed LEGO set that re-creates the Emperor's Death Star throne room with all its nooks, crannies and Imperial Guards. There's even a reactor shaft for Darth to toss the Emperor into.

HARRY POTTER HOGWARTS ASTRONOMY TOWER

(LEGO)

There are almost too many chambers in Harry Potter's famed magic school, Hogwarts, to mention, but we're fairly certain something dreadful happened in the Astronomy Tower, so we feel like it's pretty important to include this elaborate LEGO re-creation of that fateful location. Comes complete with a host of familiar Harry Potter characters, including Harry himself, Draco Malfoy and Neville Longbottom.



MINECRAFT THE CREEPER MINE

(LEGO)

Playing *Minecraft* is amazingly like inserting yourself into the LEGO universe, so we couldn't be more thrilled that LEGO and *Minecraft* finally got together. This playset lets you battle a Creeper and husk, blast out stone with TNT and store all the gold you've hoarded in the giant Creeper statue, which is not only fun but also painfully ironic! Features a working rail track with minecart, a detailed shelter and all the tools you need to keep on mining.

CREATOR 3-IN-1 PIRATE SHIP

(LEGO)

Why limit yourself to National Talk Like a Pirate Day when you can make every day piratical with this stupendous 3-in-1 playset that includes a classic Pirate Ship, a charmingly rustic Pirates' Inn and mysterious Skull Island, where we're bettin' there be pirate's treasure a buried for certain, arrrrgh! Also includes a ravenous shark, three pirate figures and a walking skeleton—shiver me timbers!

THE PATHLESS

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GIANT SQUID

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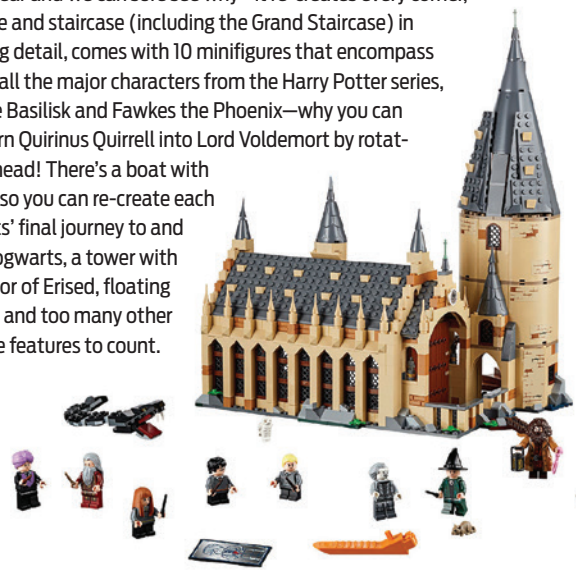
HARRY POTTER HOGWARTS GREAT HALL
(LEGO)

This massive LEGO re-creation of Hogwarts' Great Hall was 2019's Toy of the Year and we can sure see why—it re-creates every corner, fireplace and staircase (including the Grand Staircase) in stunning detail, comes with 10 minifigures that encompass almost all the major characters from the Harry Potter series, plus the Basilisk and Fawkes the Phoenix—why you can even turn Quirinus Quirrell into Lord Voldemort by rotating his head! There's a boat with lantern so you can re-create each students' final journey to and from Hogwarts, a tower with the Mirror of Erised, floating candles and too many other intricate features to count.



STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER RESISTANCE Y-WING
(LEGO)

If there's one thing we love about *Star Wars* it's Y-Wings. In fact, whenever we feel the urge to hurl a few proton torpedoes at someone we make sure we have a sturdy Y-Wing fighter or three at the ready, because nothing delivers heavy duty Rebel Alliance ordinance like this classic fighter-bomber. This big and chunky LEGO set lets you build one of the updated Y-Wings from *The Rise of Skywalker,* and it comes complete with Poe Dameron, Zorii Bliss and First Order Snowtrooper minifigures.

MINECRAFT THE CRAFTING BOX
(LEGO)

With 521 assorted LEGO pieces, a Steve minifigure with an accessory, a skeleton and a mooshroom, you might wind up spending as many hours playing with this LEGO playset as you do parked in front of the *Minecraft* video game. Throw in redstone and lapis elements, torches, plants, an oven, TNT to blow stuff up and mature wheat and this playset almost plays itself! But we're adding a skeleton's bow because you really cannot do without that.

MOONCALF THE CRIMES OF GRINDEWALD
(FUNKO POP!)

If you've ever wondered about the cause of mysterious crop circles throughout the ages, spoiler alert—they're created by Mooncalves, something *Harry Potter* author J.K. Rowling dreamed up to populate some of the new *Fantastic Beasts* movies.

What we like about this little Funko POP! figure of one of the little creatures is that it conjures up memories of the mooncalves in H.G. Wells' 1901 novel *The First Men in the Moon*.

SCOOB! MYSTERY MACHINE
(BASIC FUN)

This authentic reproduction of the most famous psychedelic van in our nation's history comes complete with rolling wheels, opening rear doors and light-up headlights that you'll definitely need to penetrate the creepy fog that's always enshrouding the estates of local land barons. Press the spare tire and you'll hear immersive mystery sounds right out of the movie! And it's the perfect size to fit all the 6" collectible figures from the flick.

SCOOB! 6" SHAGGY FIGURE
(BASIC FUN)

Thanks to the animated *Scoob!* movie you can own incredibly authentic 6" reproductions of Shaggy, Scooby-Doo and a bunch of other characters that look like they just sneaked out of every Hanna-Barbera cartoon of the 1970s from *Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?* to *The Wacky Racers*. Now you can collect 'em all, without having to worry about anything being ruined by those meddling kids.

MORTAL KOMBAT 11 ULTIMATE

BEST VALUE

MORTAL KOMBAT 11 ULTIMATE

Includes:
- Mortal Kombat 11 Base Game
- Kombat Pack 2
- Mortal Kombat 11: Aftermath
- Kombat Pack 1

KOMBAT PACK 2

Includes:
- Kombat Pack 2
  - 3 New Playable Characters
    - Mileena
    - Rain
    - Rambo

INCLUDED IN MK11 ULTIMATE

MORTAL KOMBAT 11: AFTERMATH

Includes:
- Mortal Kombat 11: Aftermath
  - All-New Cinematic Story
  - 3 New Playable Characters
    - Sheeva, Fujin and RoboCop
  - 3 New Skin Packs

INCLUDED IN MK11 ULTIMATE

KOMBAT PACK 1

Includes:
- Kombat Pack 1
  - Shang Tsung, Nightwolf, Terminator, Sindel, The Joker and Spawn
  - 6 Skin Packs and 7 Exclusive Skins

INCLUDED IN MK11 ULTIMATE

MATURE 17+ M ESRB
Blood and Gore
Intense Violence
Strong Language
In-Game Purchases / Users Interact

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NETHERREALM STUDIOS

WARNER BROS. GAMES

GREMLINS 4K UHD BLU-RAY
(WARNER BROS)
You know the rules. Never feed them after midnight, but you can watch this Joe Dante classic anytime in this stunning new 4K UHD edition featuring 10 minutes of footage not in the theatrical release, a new transfer and DTS-Master Audio sound. Just don't get stuck in the chimney on your way down.

GREMLINS ULTIMATE GREMLIN
(NECA)
Don't feed 'em after midnight? Don't get them wet? Man, these Mogwais are a lot of work! If you're dying to own your own gremlin but can't be bothered to keep track of every arcane rule that governs their existence, well, you can always bypass the risk of owning a potentially dangerous live gremlin by simply collecting one of these lifelike replicas of the little creatures from NECA. Comes with authentic accessories and won't eat your cat.

ALFRED PENNYWORTH POP TOWN
(FUNKO POP!)
Batman is one of the more industrious superheroes but let's face it, stuffy butler Alfred Pennyworth does a lot of the heavy lifting around the Bat Cave. Now this iconic character finally gets his due with this cute-as-the-dickens Funko figure that comes complete with an authentic reproduction of stately Wayne Manor.

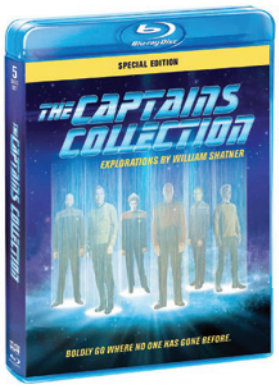
GAME OF THRONES COLLECTOR'S BOX
(CULTUREFLY)
Game of Thrones may be over, but now you can prepare for George R.R. Martin's next installment of *A Song of Ice and Fire* with this collector's box from CultureFly, including an Iron Throne Miniature Replica, House Sigil Notebook, Targaryen Socks and, our favorite, a Hodor doorstop. Hold the phone.... and the door... and get this great collector's box today.

STEPHEN KING POP ICONS FIGURE
(FUNKO POP!)
If you've grown up with all the creatures, madmen and villains of the Stephen King literary universe living rent free in your head, now you can eke out a little revenge by owning this Funko reproduction of our nation's creepiest author. Will having King sitting on your desk constantly staring at you give you a feeling of empowerment or just make your anxieties worse? There's only one way to find out!

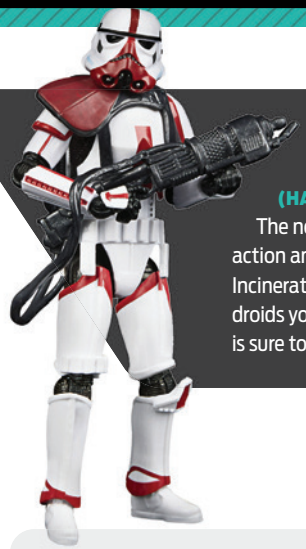
GHOSTBUSTERS CLASSIC COLLECTOR'S BOX
(CULTUREFLY)
We ain't afraid of no ghosts, but with a new *Ghostbusters* film coming next year, it's a great time to call in the original ghostbusters and add this supernatural set to your collection featuring a Slimer Vinyl Figure, Stay-Puft Planter, *Ghostbusters* Air Freshener and Crew Socks so you can set off after Zuul in style.

THE CAPTAINS COLLECTION: SPECIAL EDITION BLU-RAY SET & BUNDLE WITH WILLIAMS SHATNER'S HAS BEEN ON VINYL

(SHOUT! FACTORY)



Shout! Factory assembles all of William Shatner's *Star Trek* documentaries in one collection, including *The Captains* documentary and *Chaos on The Bridge: The Untold Story Behind Trek's Next Generation.* which examined the tumultuous first and second season of *The Next Generation*. This special edition set also includes myriad bonus features such as additional interviews and Shatner's best album, *Has Been*, on vinyl as well. We suggest you beam this set aboard.



STAR WARS THE VINTAGE COLLECTION: INCINERATOR TROOPER ACTION FIGURE

(HASBRO)

The new *Mandalorian* TV series boasts a ton of great new *Star Wars* action and now you can go on the hunt for Baby Yoda with your own Incinerator Trooper from the hit Disney+ TV series. These may not be the droids you're looking for, but this 3.75 inch-scale Mandalorian action figure is sure to be the stormtrooper you need.

GEARS OF WAR 5 COLLECTOR'S BOX

(CULTUREFLY)

Don't worry *Gears of War* fans, CultureFly has you covered with this new collector's box featuring a *Gears of War* water bottle, collector's coin, coasters, socks and a mystery item from the game. Time to gear up!

STAR WARS - VADER DEATH STAR BOXED TEE

(FUNKO)

Show your *Star Wars* love with this Walmart exclusive T-shirt from Funko depicting the Death Star (no bloody 2, 3 or Starkiller Base) in its original Imperial glory and a looming Dark Lord of the Sith, Darth Vader, who seems pretty proud of this technological terror he didn't create. One of a line of great geek apparel available from the fun folks at Funko.

PITCH BLACK 4K UHD BLU-RAY

(ARROW VIDEO)

Arrow delivers another stunning deep dive into its catalog with a 4K UHD please of *Pitch Black* featuring Vin Diesel as a survivor of a crashed alien ship that now needs to survive ravenous aliens that lurk in the dark. Besides the film being filled with B-movie thrills, the real joy of these Arrow reissues are the bountiful bonus materials that include hours of new behind-the-scenes features.

FIRE CANNOT KILL A DRAGON: GAME OF THRONES AND THE OFFICIAL UNTOLD STORY OF THE EPIC SERIES BY JAMES HIBBERD

(DUTTON)

A sensational oral history of *Game of Thrones* by *Entertainment Weekly*'s James Hibberd which peels back the story of Westeros for the first time, including background on the film's aborted pilot and how close the show got to never being made. With over 150 interviews, the book chronicles the series greatest moments as well as the controversy over the show's final seasons. Your watch may have ended, but your read is only beginning.

SPACE INVADERS COUNTER ARCADE MACHINE

(ARCADE1UP)

The legendary game that stole all your quarters is back in an authentic arcade cabinet replica that you can now bring home thanks to Arcade1Up. Fight off a marauding band of attacking space invaders and protect your world without spending another quarter ever. This is one invasion we never want to end.

IT ULTIMATE PENNYWISE FIGURE

(NECA)

If you're afraid of clowns—and who isn't?—you might be able to overcome your phobias by grabbing one of these NECA replicas of cinema's creepiest and certainly most sharp-toothed circus rejects Pennywise from Stephen King's *It*. This figure comes with three different optional heads, an extra set of hands, a balloon and a paper boat to help you relive every nightmare you've ever had about suburban drainage systems.

ALIENS ULTIMATE XENOMORPH FIGURE

(NECA)

We're traditionalists where monsters are concerned—we still get a kick out of the original H.R. Giger-designed creature from *Alien* and its exciting sequel, *Aliens*, even though we're tempted to ignore every *Alien* movie that came after them. This reproduction of the xenomorph warrior from James Cameron's *Aliens* stands 7" tall and is articulated enough to place into dozens of disturbing, ready-to-jump-out-at-you positions.

ULTIMATE ANNABELLE FIGURE

(NECA)

If you've seen *The Conjuring* movies you know that it's never a good idea to purchase an eerie-looking vintage doll, as they tend to be possessed by malevolent spirits and whatnot. Unfortunately, Annabelle, the pigtailed blonde doll who appears in everything from *The Conjuring* to *Annabelle: Creation* is no exception. But if you're an avid collector who just has to have this nerve-rattling plaything, NECA has your back with this stunning re-creation of cinema's most famous possessed doll. It comes with interchangeable heads, a chair and museum doll case accessories—but positively NO evil spirits!

HARRY POTTER ALBUS DUMBLEDORE FIGURE

(FUNKO POP!)

If you had to choose a venerable, gray-bearded wizard and it came down to Gandalf the Gray, Obi-Wan Kenobi (hey, he counts in our book) and Albus Dumbledore from the *Harry Potter* series, well... it would be awfully tough. But between the three of them, which one is truly going to look out for your education as an ambitious young wizard? That's Dumbledore, wands down, so think of this collectible Funko figure of the character as a down-payment on your wizarding degree.

HARRY POTTER VOLDEMORT FIGURE

(FUNKO POP!)

He Who Must Not Be Named will forever remain the scariest character in the *Harry Potter* series, but you can cut him down to size by owning this Funko POP! re-creation that reduces the nose-less sorcerer into just another knick-knack cluttering up your desk. Take that, Voldemort!

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2021 MOVIE PREVIEW

FINGERS CROSSED WE'LL BE WATCHING THESE BIG RELEASES IN THEATERS IN THE COMING YEAR!

By Ed Gross and the Geek Staff

NO TIME TO DIE, RIGHT TIME TO RETIRE?

By Ed Gross

GETTING TO SEE THE 25TH JAMES BOND FILM, *No Time to Die*, has been about as challenging as uncovering the scheme of one of 007's villains. Delayed several times, we'll see the adventure in April 2021 and while at this point there isn't a lot known about it, we *do* know that it will mark Daniel Craig's fifth and final turn as Bond.

His time in the role has been marked by significant differences from predecessors Sean Connery, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton and Pierce Brosnan. Not the least of which is the fact—whether it was intended from the beginning or not—that there has been a concerted effort to break with precedent and have each of his films tie into an overarching storyline, which sometimes worked more effectively than others. Nailing the landing is one of the main reasons that the actor returned after a five-year break.

"I was never going to do one again," he's explained. "I was, like, 'Is this work really genuinely worth this, to go through this whole thing?' I felt physically really low. So the prospect of doing another movie was off the cards. [But] I just needed to get my head away from it for a while. Once I had, and we started talking about storylines and things we could do and where we could take it, I was, like, 'I'm in. Let's do one more and try to finish the story.'"

Craig's tenure with Bond began with 2006's *Casino Royale*, which was a reboot of the entire series, taking 007 back to the very start of his

NO TIME TO DIE
(MGM/UA-UNIVERSAL PICTURES)

RELEASE DATE APRIL 2021

"NOBODY TOLD ME THAT WE COULDN'T MAKE AN ACTION FILM WITH A GOOD STORY, AND WE ALWAYS GO BACK TO FLEMING WHEN WE JUST SIT AND DISCUSS."

career with Her Majesty's Secret Service. The change in approach was stunning, as was his portrayal of Bond which was arguably tougher and rougher than the late Sean Connery's.

"In *Casino Royale*," Craig reflects, "James Bond is a darker character, which is how Ian Fleming originally wrote him. We start at the beginning when he has a lot of rough edges and he doesn't like to get involved with people. As the movie goes on, though, he becomes more refined. I did not want him to be the same person at the beginning of the movie that he was at the end, and I wasn't thinking beyond that movie at the time. But I was thinking that if we ever did another movie, we needed to have somewhere to go. I wanted to see a fallible human being, because dramatically it's much more interesting."

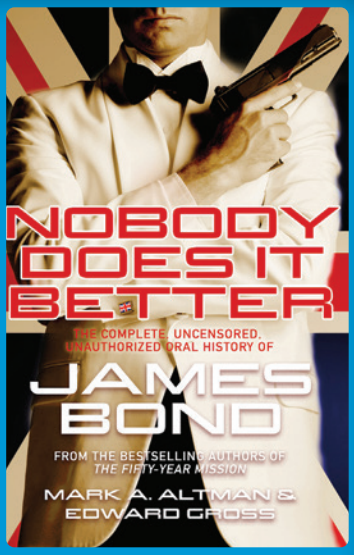
007 vs 007
Lashana Lynch as the new 007 (left) and Daniel Craig as James Bond (top right).

Quantum of Solace, released in 2008, is the first true sequel in the Bond canon, continuing the story set up in the previous film, taking place just minutes after its conclusion. "It just seemed to me when it came down to it, and we all agreed, that to my mind at the end of *Casino Royale*, it was sort of the *beginning* of the story as opposed to the end of one. He had fallen in love, had his heart broken; this organization they discovered, they have started peeling back the onion skin. To do another movie and just go, 'Oh, there was this chick once,' seemed to be the wrong thing to do. It just fit and that's it."

That "chick" was Eva Green's Vesper Lynd, whose death propels Bond into *Quantum* and the discovery of an enemy organization that has infiltrated all aspects of society. Emphasizes Craig, "The mistake in this movie is the perception that he's on a vendetta, and he's not. I kind of keep this whole thing about the title *Quantum of Solace*, it's actually what he's looking for. He just does a job. He's not out to take revenge. He might be a little angrier than he was in the first one, but that's the actual point. The point at the end is that he gets a chance to do the guy, the one guy who's actually responsible. Not the bosses, but the actual guy that twisted the love of his life, and he says *no*."

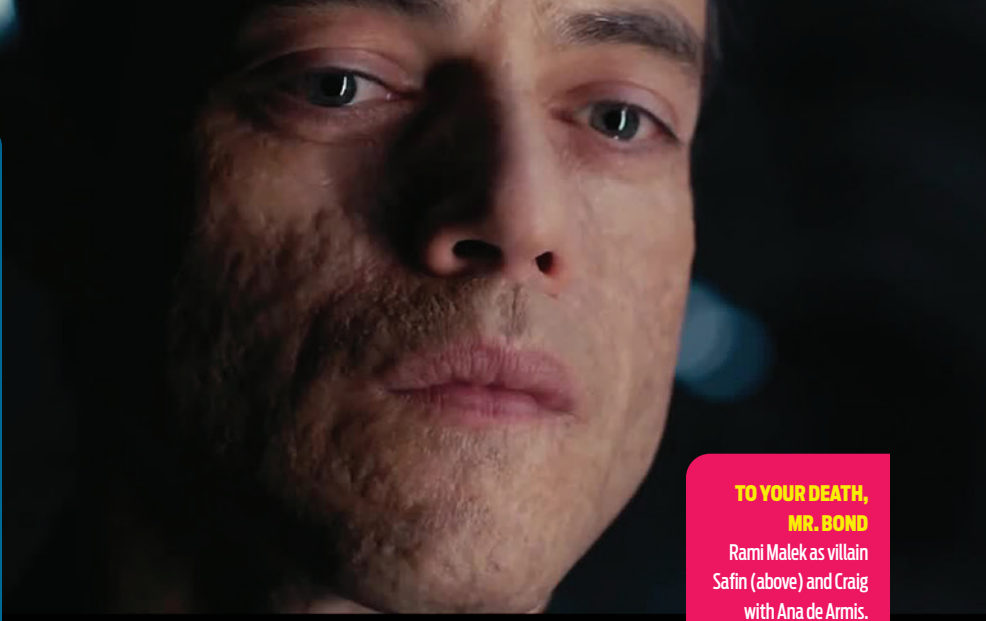
Skyfall (2012) changes tack in that the Quantum organization is nowhere to be seen, the focus instead being on former agent Silva (Javier Bardem) who *is* seeking vengeance, in this case against Her Majesty's Secret Service in general and M (Dame Judy Dench) in particular —which makes the mission personal for Bond.

"Nobody told me that we couldn't make an action film with a good story, and we always go back to Fleming when we just sit and discuss. In truth, Bond is a killer. He kills for a living and it's really kind of a dark place he goes to. But what I'm so proud of with *Skyfall* is that the writing is so good. And the lightness of touch is back that



NOBODY DOES IT BETTER
(TOR FORGE)
The complete, uncensored oral history of the James Bond films comes to paperback from bestselling authors Mark A. Altman and Edward Gross chronicling all the filmic adventures of 007 from *Dr. No* through *No Time To Die*. With over 150 interviews with cast, crew members, critics and filmmakers, this is the big one, 007. Learn about the history of all your favorite Bond films and compare your own opinions to critics and fans alike as they discuss the more than five decades of incredible Bond adventures.

SKYFALL BLU-RAY
(MGM/UA-UNIVERSAL PICTURES)
Before you dive into *No Time To Die*, fall back and get reacquainted with one of 007's prior adventures with this sparkling HD spy adventure featuring Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Ralph Fiennes and a very scary Javier Bardem as the villain.



TO YOUR DEATH, MR. BOND
Rami Malek as villain Safin (above) and Craig with Ana de Armis.

we wanted so much. You need good writing for that, and that's what we had. We combined that element with a very emotional story that just employed me. In a lot of ways, *Skyfall* is about families. Not in a heavy way, just in terms of plot that's going back to his childhood just to sort of destroy it and move on to begin again."

While *Skyfall* was the most successful Bond in history—critically and financially with a gross of over $1 billion—everything kind of fell apart with 2015's *Spectre*. For starters, the producers re-obtained the rights to the enemy organization SPECTRE and its leader, Ernst Stavro Blofeld, which meant that there was suddenly no mention of Quantum, though the setup is that Spectre was behind everything that had happened to Craig's Bond. Silva was retconned to be part of the overall web of intrigue established previously and Blofeld (Christoph Waltz) revealing himself to be Bond's foster brother and "the author of all your pain." Few people were buying it (though it did well at the box office, it failed to meet *Skyfall*'s achievements), which has led directly to Craig's return in *No Time to Die*. Craig has stated that if Spectre had completely worked he might have walked away from the series then—but apparently No Time To Die is a wrap-up for the character he's satisfied with. To be determined!

APPARENTLY *NO TIME TO DIE* IS A WRAP-UP FOR THE CHARACTER CRAIG'S SATISFIED WITH.

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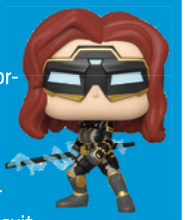
RELEASE DATE MAY 7 2021

BLACK WIDOW
(DISNEY)

Can you believe we are now approaching Phase 4 of the Marvel Cinematic Universe? We've been waiting a long time for a stand-alone movie for Scarlett Johansson's Natasha Romanoff, AKA Black Widow. Logically she should have been the first female lead in the MCU after her character, introduced in *Iron Man 2*, wound up becoming a sensation in the subsequent *Avengers* and *Captain America* movies. Brie Larson's *Captain Marvel* wound up beating her to the punch, but in *Black Widow* we'll finally get to see Natasha's origins and, in fact, the movie sounds like it will both begin and complete Black Widow's story, showcasing her Russian siblings Melina Vostokoff (Rachel Weisz) and Alexei Shostakov (*Stranger Things*' David Harbour), AKA Red Guardian, and introducing a potential new Black Widow in Florence Pugh's Yelena Belova. But we're gonna miss ScarJo.

MARVEL:AVENGERS ENDGAME BLACK WIDOW
(FUNKO POP!)



You know what's more adorable than Scarlett Johansson? This greatly reduced Funko POP! re-creation of her Black Widow character decked out in a Stark Tech suit, complete with goggles that let her see in the dark and an electrified power pole that allows her to zap similarly diminutive enemies.

BLACK WIDOW SLINGSHOT WITH POWER BANDS
(BARNETT)

If you dig the way Black Widow takes out her adversaries with wrist-mounted weapons then you're going to love this harmless but deadly accurate wrist-mounted slingshot that will make you feel every bit as lethal as the world's most beloved Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. Comes complete with shooting guide and safety first target ammo. Leather catsuit not included.

RELEASE DATE DEC 25 2020

WW84
(WARNER BROS)

All the world is waiting for her and the powers she possesses in her satin tights, fighting for your rights and the old red, white and blue. Now the world is ready for her and the wonders she can do. Yes, Gal Gadot is back as the superhero who can stop a war with love, this time squaring off against Maxwell Lord (*The Mandalorian*'s Pedro Pascal) and the Cheetah, played by former *SNL* star Kristen Wiig. With Patty Jenkins back in the director's chair, one expects all the fresh, exciting action and female empowerment that characterized the original film (and hopefully a little less extraneous CGI). Also going back to the future is Steve Trevor (played by Chris Pine) who died in the first film, but not unlike Lyle Waggoner in the original TV series is making the jump with the franchise decades later. Due out Christmas Day 2020.

SHAZAM/WONDER WOMAN 2-FILM COLLECTION
(WARNER BROS.)

Before you check out *WW84*, reacquaint yourself with the Wonder Woman mythos by revisiting the original *WW* movie in this sparkling Blu-ray that reveals Diana Prince's sisterhood of amazons on their secret island. Walmart will throw in a digital copy of *Shazam*, otherwise known as DC's Captain Marvel—although he's now referred to as Shazam to avoid confusion with the more recently minted Captain Marvel character from the MCU. Both movies are fun for adults or kids.

RELEASE DATE MAY 2021

GODZILLA VS. KONG

(LEGENDARY PICTURES)

Toho's 1962 *King Kong vs. Godzilla* was for many years the biggest money-maker of the long-running series, despite the fact that it was essentially a comedy. Legendary's *Kong: Skull Island* introduced a 104-foot Kong who has now had over half a century to grow to Godzilla size (*Skull Island* was set in 1973) and Godzilla, after dispatching a horde of "titans," including Ghidorah and Rodan in *Godzilla: King of the Monsters*, now towers almost 400 feet in height, so we're hoping Kong ate his vegetables. Kyle Chandler, Millie Bobby Brown and Ziyi Zhang reprise their roles from *GKOTM* and director Adam Wingard (*The Guest, Blair Witch*) somehow also talked the great Rebecca Hall and Alexander Skarsgård into this outing. Apparently, Kong and Godzilla have a fistfight on top of one very unfortunate aircraft carrier, but we're really hoping Kong works up the nerve to swing Godzilla around by his tail like he did in the 1962 movie.

MONSTERVERSE 6" HOLLOW EARTH GODZILLA

(PLAYMATES)

This six-inch reproduction of the current King of the Monsters comes complete with a crushed radio tower and a "battle damage" feature that lets you peel away a pretty big chunk of Godzilla's stomach. Spoiler alert! This does not bode well for the Big G's title match with King Kong, we'd say.

6" BASIC KONG WITH AXE FIGURE

(PLAYMATES)

You've heard that you shouldn't bring a gun to a knife fight, but apparently no one told King Kong not to bring an axe to a monster fight. This six-inch figure also features similar pull-away "battle damage" as the six-inch Godzilla, so maybe Kong's gonna need all the weaponry he can get to take on the Big G.

RELEASE DATE DEC 25 2020

MONSTER HUNTER

(SCREEN GEMS)

Based on the Capcom video game, *Monster Hunter* features Milla Jovovich as Lt. Artemis, the leader of a group of soldiers thrust into a terrifying (but playable) new world that reads like a cross between *The Road Warrior* and *Godzilla*, as Artemis and her gang face down a series of titanic monsters (*Godzilla*'s Toho is actually involved as one of the film's production companies). Since its costs are far lower than something like *Black Widow* or *Godzilla vs. Kong*, *Monster Hunter* doesn't have the high risk factor the other movies have in terms of theatrical release and it just recently moved from the end of the year to a Christmas Day release just like *Wonder Woman 1984*.

MONSTER HUNTER WORLD (PS4)

(CAPCOM)

Before you see the movie you can enter the *Monster Hunter* world yourself in this thrilling video game that pits players against ferocious beasts in a newly discovered continent. With only a bow and arrow and armor to navigate this dangerous new world, you'll have to pit beast against beast either alone or with up to three other hunters in an online drop-in multiplayer system. Use defeated monster remains to create more powerful weapons, rinse and repeat.

MONSTER HUNTER WORLD: ICEBORNE MASTER EDITION (PS4)

(CAPCOM)

Brrr! This expansion for *Monster Hunter World* sets you down in an unexplored polar region, Hoarfrost Reach, teeming with frosty new monsters that will have you fighting both the cold and these giant beasts in a battle for survival. You'll need to forge amazing new weapons and armor to take on these creatures, and we strongly suggest that you make that armor fleece-lined.

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RELEASE DATE
OCT 1 2021

DUNE

(WARNER BROS.)

Director Denis Villeneuve takes his chrysknife stab at Frank Herbert's classic sci-fi novel and promises to break the epic story into more than one film. David Lynch's 1984 version truly suffered from trying to cram the 600-page novel into two hours, infamously boasting an unintelligible, almost five-minute opening introduction delivered by Virginia Madsen, so we're cautiously excited about Villeneuve's version. Villeneuve has made a great reputation from two science fiction films, 2016's alien first contact story *Arrival* and 2017's sequel *Blade Runner 2049*. You can't fault his ambition or intelligence, but both movies also have their detractors, and images and footage from Villeneuve's *Dune* so far look a lot like Lynch's, only with much more simplified costumes and vehicles. But like Lynch, Villeneuve has gathered a fantastic cast for his *Dune*, with Timothée Chalamet looking like a more convincingly boyish Paul Atreides than Lynch's Kyle MacLachlan, Rebecca Ferguson and Oscar Isaacs as his parents, Josh Brolin as Gurney Halleck, Charlotte Rampling as the Reverend Mother, Jason Momoa as Duncan Idaho... we're actually running out of room for the stars! *Dune* is a classic story and should work for the big screen but reportedly Villeneuve is still working on it.

DUNE PAUL ATREIDES ACTION FIGURE
(McFARLANE TOYS)
Truly, he is the Kwisatz Haderach, but for our purposes, young Paul Atreides is a callow youth consigned from his lush homeworld of Caladan to Dune, Arrakis, the desert planet. But in his water-capturing stillsuit, young Paul is totally ready for action and prepared to become the new leader of a brand new world.

DUNE STILGAR ACTION FIGURE
(McFARLANE TOYS)
Now you can own one of the charismatic leaders of the Fremen, Stilgar, as portrayed in the new *Dune* movie by no less than acclaimed actor Javier Bardem. Comes complete with stillsuit and desert gear.

GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE

(SONY)

Director Jason Reitman assumes the *Ghostbusters* family legacy from his father Ivan with this latest film in the *Ghostbusters* saga. The highly anticipated sequel brings back much of the original cast in a supernatural comedy thriller. Given its *Stranger Things* vibe, it shouldn't come as a surprise that the show's Finn Wolfhard stars along with franchise newcomers Carrie Coon and Paul Rudd. But have no fear, the original ghostbusters are back, including Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Ernie Hudson along with Sigourney Weaver, and Annie Potts and they ain't afraid of no ghosts. Set 30 years after *Ghosbusters II,* a family moves to a small town, where they discover their connection to the original *Ghostbusters* and their grandfather's secret legacy, and we can't wait to see the gang back in action. The real question is will Ray Parker, Jr. be back, too?

GHOSTBUSTERS: THE VIDEO GAME REMASTERED
(MAD DOG GAMES)

You can get all your ghost-busting mojo back with this remastered video game written by Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis, the writers of the original movie, which also happens to feature the voices of Aykroyd, Ramis, Bill Murray and Ernie Hudson as their original *Ghostbusters* characters. You'll be ghost hunting, wrangling and trapping with upgradeable weapons in a series of environments that are tailor-made to be reduced to shambles by rampaging ghosts.

F9

(UNIVERSAL PICTURES)

If you can't get enough of the *Fast and Furious* movies, well, let's just say you're living in the right universe. Universal recently announced that the long-running series will finally end—after two more movies, numbers 10 and 11, respectively—but in the meantime we still have *F9* on deck (this series is so globally beloved they don't even need to bother with titles anymore). Muscleboundbut amusing ex-wrestler John Cena plays Dominic's brother Jakob, who's recruited by the evil but glamorous Cipher (Charlize Theron) to wreak havoc on Dominic (the ever-glowering Vin Diesel) and the rest of the *Fast and Furious* gang, including the always game Letty (Michelle Rodriguez)... wait, didn't she die a few movies back? We can't keep track of this stuff anymore.

FAST AND FURIOUS DRIFT RC CAR

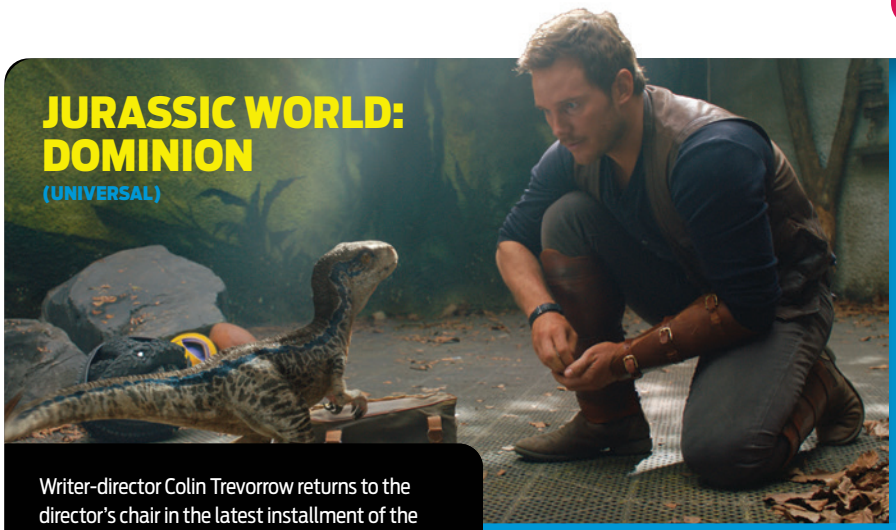
(JADA TOYS)

Most of us never get the chance to "drift" in real life but the next best thing might be this amazing radio-controlled, super stylish *Fast and Furious* toy car that executes real drifting action when you correctly employ the pistol grip controller—or just hit the turbo button to rocket forward at tooth-rattling speed! Comes with an extra set of tires with easy mount design so you can lay rubber without fear.

HOT WHEELS *FAST AND FURIOUS* VEHICLES

(MATTEL)

You don't need a garage to display your *Fast and Furious* car collection when Hot Wheels boasts a whole fleet of muscle car power in palm-sized 1:64 scale. These intricately detailed, flashily painted automobile toys are perfect either to rev down one of Hot Wheels' familiar orange vinyl free-way racing sets or to just sit on your work desk for you to admire.



JURASSIC WORLD: DOMINION

(UNIVERSAL)

Writer-director Colin Trevorrow returns to the director's chair in the latest installment of the *Jurassic Park* series, but this time he's brought company, reuniting all the original stars for the first time since the first *Jurassic Park*: Sam Neill, Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern. Spoiler alert: They're all a lot older! It's sure to attract newfound excitement from those of us who've gradually lost interest in the series. Also back are Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard. This franchise has a long way to go before it becomes extinct, apparently.

JURASSIC WORLD 5-MOVIE COLLECTION

(UNIVERSAL HOME VIDEO)

You can easily get right down to the DNA of the *Jurassic Park* movie series with this eye-blazing set of Blu-rays that includes every *Jurassic Park* movie ever made: the original plus *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, *Jurassic Park III*, *Jurassic World* and *Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom*.

JURASSIC WORLD GALLIMIMUS AND PTERANODON BREAKOUT

(LEGO)

There's nothing more annoying than a Gallimimus breakout but this super fun LEGO set gives you all the heavy equipment you need to solve the problem, including three minifigures, a research vehicle and other equipment—but watch out for the Pteranodon!

RELEASE DATE JULY 2 2021

MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU

(UNIVERSAL PICTURES)

This movie that finally tells us the story of Gru's origins as a 12-year-old longing to become the world's greatest supervillain can't just be called *The Rise of Gru* because nobody remembers the name Gru—but they do remember the Minions! This new movie boasts a stellar voice cast that includes Jean-Claude Van Damme (as Jean Clawed), Steve Carell (slinking back as Gru), Michelle Yeoh (who's now in everything), Lucy Lawless, Dolph Lundgren and Julie Andrews, and we're also guessing it features a lot of Minions.

MINIONS: THE RISE OF GRU LOUD 'N ROWDY FIGURE

(MATTEL)

These adorable Minion toy characters are so numerous there's simply no way to predict which one you're going to get in these randomly assorted packages, so you'd probably better cover your bets by purchasing them all. Between the lot of them they operate construction equipment, roll their eyes, execute kung fu, jet around on rocket skates and utter nonsense phrases and sounds right out of the movie.

LEGO MINIONS: BRICK-BUILT MINIONS AND THEIR LAIR

(LEGO)

If you can't join 'em, build 'em. Now you can construct your Minion companions from the ground up with this LEGO set that includes build-up figures of either Minions Kevin or Stuart—build one, break him down and then build the other. This could literally go on all day.

SPIRAL

(LIONSGATE)

We kind of lost track of the *Saw* pictures after the first two but having Chris Rock pitch the story, star and act as producer for this new instalment in the series (originally titled *Spiral: From the Book of Saw*) has us ready to go through the whole *Saw* thing all over again. Rock plays a police detective following in the footsteps of legendary law enforcement officer Nick Fury—er, we mean Marcus, who happens to be played by Samuel L. Jackson—who takes over a frightening murder investigation that seems to point back to the good old days of that puppet-brandishing evil mastermind Jigsaw. We're dying to know what Rock plans on bringing to this premise, in which the evil killer seems to be targeting police officers.

JIGSAW (4K ULTRA HD + BLU-RAY)

(LIONSGATE)

If you want to catch up on your *Saw* lore before taking in *Spiral*, this thriller involves five people trapped in a barn and takes place 10 years after the original Jigsaw rampage, raising the question: Has Jigsaw risen from the grave to strike again? We're not exactly sure but the presence of original Jigsaw actor Tobin Bell in the cast might give you a hint.

PC GAMER

"An elegant tactical puzzler that captures the pace and action of the movies."

GAMESPOT

"It's a slick and well-oiled game that succeeds in giving you a new, engrossing way to experience John Wick and its signature brand of chaotic action."

bithell Good Shepherd ENTERTAINMENT LIONSGATE GAMES

JOHN WICK® HEX

DECEMBER 4

MATURE 17+
M
ESRB

Blood
Strong Language
Violence

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Published by Good Shepherd Entertainment. Developed by Bithell Games.

GEEK GEAR

GET YOUR GEAR ON WITH THESE GADGETS, GAMES AND GEEKY GOODIES

By the GEEK Staff

DISNEY HAUNTED MANSION: CALL OF THE SPIRITS GAME

(FUNKO GAMES)

Haunted Mansion: Call of the Spirits brings all the fun—and frights—of the classic Disney Parks' attraction to family game night. Packed with spooky callouts to the popular dark ride, from the floating candelabra to the hitchhiking ghosts, the 2-6 player game is a great way to enjoy the attraction's happy haunts from the comfort of your own home.

DRAGON'S LAIR X REPLICADE MINI ARCADE CABINET

(NEW WAVE TOYS)

You needn't look further than New Wave Toys' previous mini-arcade cabinets to appreciate their passion for re-creating the quarter-munching pastime with authenticity to spare. Following their fully playable, 12-inch-tall *Centipede*, *Tempest* and *Street Fighter II: Champion Edition* replicas, they're back with another nostalgia-stinging blast from the past.

Doubling down on the incredible detail that's made previous offerings such prized collectibles, their new *Dragon's Lair* cabinet is their best yet. Crafted from premium wood, metal and plastic, the 1/6-scale machine looks and feels like the real deal. On top of housing Don Bluth's 1983 animated, interactive adventure, the tiny time-capsule features a secondary scoreboard—just like the original—as well as gorgeous side art, illuminated marquee, metal coin door and authentic controls.

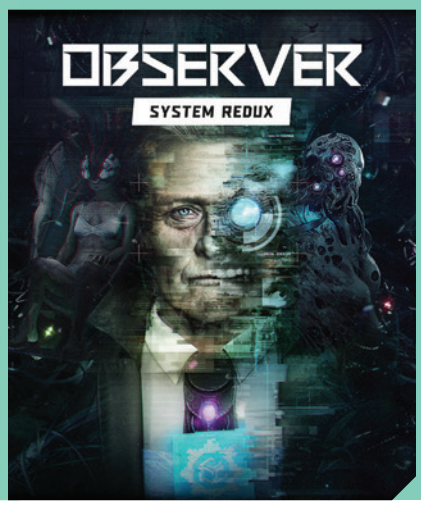
You're welcome to relive your favorite Princess Daphne-rescuing memories on the diminutive device, but it can also connect to a larger display via HDMI port, as well as be played with a USB-supported controller. Regardless of how you decide to wield Dirk the Daring's sword, you'll want to take some time to savor its additional accessories. The cabinet's backside houses a small drawer, containing an adorable replica LaserDisc player, complete with mini remote and sleeved disc.

But the astounding, fan-servicing detail doesn't stop there, as an old-school operator's manual and miniature tokens are also included. Catering equally to collectors, gamers and grown-ups with fond memories of summers spent trying to slay Singe, *Dragon's Lair x RepliCade* is the perfect addition to any geek cave—or dark wizard's castle.

OBSERVER: SYSTEM REDUX

(ASPYR)

2017's cult-favorite detective thriller gets a next-gen makeover, allowing Xbox Series X and PlayStation 5 owners to experience it on their shiny new hardware. A brilliant blend of psychological horror and cyberpunk elements, the dark adventure brings new missions, next-generation enhancements and, of course, a fantastic performance from the late, great Rutger Hauer.



SPELLBREAK

(PROLETARIAT INC.)

A fresh, magic-casting take on the popular battle royale genre, *Spellbreak* mixes a vibrant fantasy setting, powerful elemental abilities and dozens of players competing to be the last battlemage standing. Much more than *Fortnite* with fireballs, though, the game's unique, absorbing spin on the formula is a literal blast.

AC1200 WIFI RANGE EXTENDER

(NETGEAR)

It's no secret that we're all looking for better home Internet connections right now, so if you're having issues with home streaming, stuttering audio or frozen Zoom video, this dual band WiFi offers up to 1200Mbps and supports new 802.11ac & b/g/n WiFi devices FastLane Technology for high-speed connections. It works with any WiFi router, features a NETGEAR installation assistant, Push 'N' Connect (WPS), a WiFi Analytics App and smart LED indicators.

BURGER 101 PICO PROJECTOR

(VANKYO)

Now you can carry around a movie theater in the palm of your hand with this burger-sized DLP projector that brings you 1080P HD video, supports 1920x1080 resolution, 1000:1 contrast ratio and even 3D viewing with a 3D source and a pair of active shutter 3D glasses (not included). We wouldn't recommend this baby for PowerPoint presentations, but it will allow you to achieve screen mirroring from your smartphone or tablet, it's compatible with HDMI and WiFi-enabled devices, and it's perfect for watching movies, sports matches or for playing games.

APPLE TV 4K 32G

(APPLE)

If you're tired of cable and satellite bills, Apple TV offers access to a host of streaming services and games and lets you take control of your entertainment experience. It boasts 4K High Dynamic Range (Dolby Vision and HDR10) for stunning picture quality, Dolby Digital Plus 7.1 surround sound, voice activation using Siri Remote, and an A10X Fusion chip for ultra-fast graphics and performance. Watch movies, view photos and videos from your iPhone and iPad on your big-screen TV and choose from thousands of apps in the App Store.

EASTWOOD BLUETOOTH RECORD PLAYER

(VICTROLA)

Wait, Victrola still exists? Victrola was one of the inventors of the record turntable around 120 years ago, and after 80 years of dominance, the old 33 1/3 RPM standard for music albums started going out of fashion with the introduction of the CD—remember those? Now music listening is primarily streaming, but if you're hip you may find yourself collecting vinyl LPs just like your granddad did in the 1960s. If that's the case, you sure could use this sleek three-speed turntable that will play 33s, 45 and 78 RPM records while still streaming all your favorite music with dual-Bluetooth connectivity to link up to your smart device.

HOT HARDWARE & COLLECTIBLES

ADVERTISEMENT

XBOX SERIES X | S

Play thousands of games from four generations of Xbox with the console that best fits your playstyle. Experience the fastest, most powerful Xbox ever with Xbox Series X, or go all-digital with Xbox Series S, the smallest, sleekest Xbox ever made.* Next-gen performance comes in all sizes.

**Xbox Series S: Use with digital games only; console does not play physical discs.*

XBOX ELITE WIRELESS CONTROLLER SERIES 2

The Xbox Elite Wireless Controller Series 2 features over 30 new ways to play like a pro, including adjustable-tension thumbsticks, new interchangeable components, up to 40 hours of rechargeable battery life, and limitless customization with the Xbox Accessories app on Xbox One and Windows 10.*

**Battery life varies significantly with additional accessories, usage, and other factors. Testing conducted by Microsoft using preproduction units. xbox.com/elitebattery. Xbox Accessories app features – including button mapping and profile configuration – are only available on Xbox One and Windows 10. Compatible with Xbox Series X, Xbox Series S, Xbox One X, Xbox One S, Xbox One, Windows 10, Android, iOS. Operating system updates: may be required. Go to xbox.com/xboxone/controller-OS for more information.*

PLAYSTATION®5

THE PS5™ CONSOLE UNLEASHES NEW GAMING POSSIBILITIES THAT YOU NEVER ANTICIPATED

Experience lightning fast loading with an ultra-high speed SSD, deeper immersion with support for haptic feedback, adaptive triggers, and 3D Audio, and an all-new generation of incredible PlayStation® games.

Lightning Speed

Harness the power of a custom CPU, GPU, and SSD with Integrated I/O that rewrite the rules of what a PlayStation® console can do.

Stunning Games

Marvel at incredible graphics and experience new PS5™ features.

Breathtaking Immersion

Discover a deeper gaming experience with support for haptic feedback, adaptive triggers, and 3D Audio technology.

DUALSENSE™ WIRELESS CONTROLLER

BRING GAMING WORLDS TO LIFE

Haptic feedback[1]

Feel physically responsive feedback to your in-game actions with dual actuators which replace traditional rumble motors. In your hands, these dynamic vibrations can simulate the feeling of everything from environments to the recoil of different weapons.

Adaptive triggers[1]

Experience varying levels of force and tension as you interact with your in-game gear and environments. From pulling back an increasingly tight bowstring to hitting the brakes on a speeding car, feel physically connected to your on-screen actions.

[1] Available when feature is supported by game.

OCULUS QUEST 2 ALL-IN-ONE VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSET

There's no end in sight to what you can play, create and discover in Oculus Quest 2. Explore an expansive library of awe-inspiring games and immersive experiences with unparalleled freedom. Get the most out of each moment with blazing-fast performance and next-generation graphics. Stay focused with a stunning display that features 50% more pixels than the original Quest. No PC or console required. Just open the box, set up with the smartphone app and jump into VR.

RDS NINTENDO SWITCH™ GAME TRAVELER® DELUXE TRAVEL CASE WITH ZELDA BREATH OF THE WILD

NNS42BR

Hard shell case protects Nintendo Switch™ or Nintendo Switch™ Lite System

Adjustable Viewing Stand

Recessed bottom insert firmly holds either Nintendo Switch™ with or without R.D.S. licensed Joy-Con™ Action Grips or Nintendo Switch™ Lite with or without Protective Glove

Comfortable carrying handle

Game Card and Micro SD Card Cases

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RDS NINTENDO SWITCH™ GAME TRAVELER® DELUXE TRAVEL CASE WITH SUPER MARIO CHARACTERS

NNS53B

Hard shell case protects Nintendo Switch™ or Nintendo Switch™ Lite System

Adjustable Viewing Stand

Recessed bottom insert firmly holds either Nintendo Switch™ with or without R.D.S. licensed Joy-Con™ Action Grips or Nintendo Switch™ Lite with or without Protective Glove

Comfortable carrying handle

Game Card and Micro SD Card Cases

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OCULUS QUEST 2 CARRYING CASE

Bring your headset with you or tuck it away. This lightweight case provides sturdy protection whether you're at home or on the go. The padded interior fits the Oculus Quest 2 headset with optional Elite Strap or Elite Strap With Battery, two Touch controllers, charging cable and power adapter.

STEELSERIES ARCTIS 1 GAMING HEADSET

The Arctis 1 is an all-platform gaming headset that doubles as your on-the-go headphones. With the same high-quality speaker drivers as the award-winning Arctis 7, a detachable microphone, and sleek low-profile design, the Arctis 1 is made for all gaming platforms, so you can enjoy the award-winning performance of Arctis no matter where you are.

STEELSERIES RIVAL 3 WIRELESS GAMING MOUSE

The Rival 3 Wireless utilizes Quantum 2.0 Dual Wireless technology to provide ultra-low latency wireless and 400+ hours of battery life. With hyper durable materials, a performance-focused gaming sensor, 60 million click mechanical switches, on-board memory and more, the Rival 3 provides performance with maximum versatility.

NEXT-GEN POWER

THE XBOX SERIES X AND PLAYSTATION 5 PACK PERFORMANCE, SPEED AND PRETTY VISUALS TO SPARE

By Matt Cabral

IF YOU'VE CAUGHT THE BUZZ surrounding the brand new, next-gen gaming consoles from Microsoft and Sony, you're no doubt aware both the Xbox Series X and PlayStation 5 are absolute beasts.

Closer to dedicated gaming PCs than traditional home consoles, the pair of platforms are putting all their considerable power into cranking the interactive entertainment medium to the next level.

When speaking of their ability to deliver cutting-edge experiences, tech terms like teraflops, ray tracing and solid-state drives dominate the conversation. But at the end of the day, all the jargon adds up to these monsters far surpassing the computational abilities of their predecessors.

More specifically, it translates to those tedious load times—the ones we've all filled by making sandwiches or taking bathroom breaks—being significantly reduced and, in many cases, eliminated entirely. It also means the old standard of 30 frames-per-second has been kicked to the curb by speedy, silky smooth 60 fps action.

And, amazingly, the systems deliver these performance-boosting results with nary a peep. Whereas last generation's platforms roared like jet engines while struggling to keep up with the demands of massive, graphically intensive games, the new consoles carry the weight without hardly emitting a whisper.

But peppy framerates, nonexistent load times, and quiet machines merely play supporting roles in the promise to send players' jaws to the floor with eye-popping visual presentations. Packed with astounding detail, immersion-ratcheting realism and a level of polygon-pushing polish previously unattainable on home consoles, both boxes are positioned to let fans get lost in their favorite interactive worlds like never before.

And while the PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series X possess similar potential, each harnessing all those horses beneath their hoods to deliver next-gen experiences, Sony and Microsoft have also differentiated themselves with some welcome features specific to their respective platforms.

TALL BOY
Despite its towering design, the PS5 can be laid on its side like previous PlayStation consoles.

ALL THE JARGON ADDS UP TO THESE MONSTERS FAR SURPASSING THE COMPUTATIONAL ABILITIES OF THEIR PREDECESSORS.

BRING YOUR BACK LIBRARY TO LIFE

The two machines allow players to revisit their existing libraries of games and, in most cases, boost their back catalogs with better visuals, speed and performance. But where Sony's more focused on future titles, limiting the PlayStation 5's backward compatibility to PS4 offerings, Microsoft has made the ability to play legacy titles a major selling point for fans not yet ready to part with their decade-plus old games.

Boasting near-full backward compatibility, the Xbox Series X supports just about every title you could play on Microsoft's previous generation platform. That doesn't just include all the games built specifically for the Xbox One, but also the hundreds of earlier generation entries Microsoft made compatible with it. This means both Xbox 360 and even original Xbox offerings—going back nearly 20 years—aren't only playable on the shiny new hardware, but may even benefit from improved graphical presentations and performance.

So whether you're craving quality time with your recent Xbox One library, looking to revisit first-party favorites from the Xbox 360 era or even want to travel back to 2002 and help Sam Fisher save the world in the original *Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell*, the Xbox Series X has got your back. Best of all, many of these classics make the next-gen jump with existing game saves, add-on content and earned achievements intact. If your love of all things Xbox runs two decades deep, the new console's full-featured backward compatibility should make your next-gen buying decision a bit easier.

GAME SWAP
The Xbox Series X Quick Resume feature lets you quickly switch between multiple in-progress games.

TOWER OF POWER
The Xbox Series X's computer tower-like design can also be displayed horizontally.

POWER IN THE PALM OF YOUR HANDS

Both the Xbox Series X and PlayStation 5 are bundled with new controllers built to take advantage of their hardware's gameplay enhancements. The former's peripheral sports some minor refinements and tweaks—including an improved D-pad—but has mostly stuck to the tried-and-true design of its predecessor. The latter, however, has taken a dramatically different approach, completely redesigning last-gen's DualShock 4 to deliver the game-changing DualSense.

The new controller's form factor will feel comfortably familiar to anyone who blistered their thumbs through marathon PS4 game sessions, but that's where the similarities end. The DualSense doubles down on haptic feedback and adaptive trigger technology, taking the classic "rumble" feature we've enjoyed for years to new, palm-rattling levels of immersion.

Whether you're spinning webs and busting bad guys in *Marvel's Spider-Man: Miles Morales*, feeling the full, brute force of *Demon's Souls* towering foes or gleefully platforming through *Astro's Playroom's* clever levels, you'll be continually amazed by the peripheral's ability to layer additional depth into almost every action, interaction and reaction.

BUNDLED BOT
The PS5 is packaged with *Astro's Playroom*, a vibrant platformer that showcases the system's features.

GAME-CHANGER
The DualSense controller's haptic feedback and adaptive triggers significantly up the immersion.

NINTENDO'S NEXT-GEN TAKE

Super Mario's handlers have always followed their own path, with content to create clever, innovative experiences while the competition fights tooth and nail for a piece of the next-gen pie. The current console war is no different, as Nintendo happily sits it out—while Sony and Microsoft duke it out.

But they're not entirely without a horse in the race this holiday season. While the company isn't releasing a new console, they are offering a fresh take on one of their most popular franchises. *Mario Kart Live: Home Circuit* combines the Nintendo Switch (or Switch Lite) system with a physical toy car and then tosses in some inspired, augmented reality tech and the power of players' imaginations to blur the line between the racing series' real and virtual worlds.

The result is a smile-inducing romp that sees fans constructing real-world tracks—from paper cups, paper towel tubes and anything else they can dig from the recycle bin—before watching them pop to life on their Switch's screen. Whether racing your physical kart on a course built in your bedroom, den or garage, you'll see it magically populated by familiar Mushroom Kingdom foes, effects, environments and power-ups.

Mario Kart Live: Home Circuit won't surpass the competition in terms of polygon counts and framerate speeds, but it easily wins the cup when it comes to delivering a fun, imaginative take on the mustachioed mascot's popular, rubber-burning pastime.

FRESH TRACKS
Mario Kart Live uses a physical car, which can race around player-constructed courses.

UNREAL RACING
Augmented reality tech brings players' tracks to life on the Switch's screen.

And while you might expect such effects to spawn from bombastic set pieces and epic combat encounters, the tech doesn't stop at supporting the most obvious on-screen antics. In fact, it's the much subtler inclusions—like the nuanced feedback produced when your in-game protagonist pets an animal or offers a fist-bump to a friend—that'll continually remind you that your favorite pastime has entered a thrilling new era.

BUT IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GAMES

While the Xbox Series X's backward compatibility and PlayStation 5's DualSense controller will immediately strike you as significant, differentiating features, they only scratch the surface of each console's ability to deliver experiences specifically designed for their fans. From the Xbox's "Smart Delivery," which automatically upgrades cross-platform games when players make the jump to next-gen to the PS5's sleek, intuitive user interface, there's plenty more reasons to consider squeezing both systems into your entertainment center.

BOTH SYSTEMS' LAUNCH LINE-UPS ARE ON THE LIGHT SIDE, BUT A NUMBER OF POTENTIAL-PACKED OFFERINGS ARE IN DEVELOPMENT.

Of course, that's before you ponder all the amazing games in the pipeline, titles crafted from the ground up to leverage each platform's PC-rivaling power and performance. Both systems' launch line-ups are on the light side, but a number of potential-packed offerings are in development. The Xbox Series X has *Halo Infinite* and *Fable* on the way, while the PlayStation 5 will host fresh entries in Sony's *God of War* and *Horizon Zero Dawn* franchises.

Toss in the many other talented, first- and third-party studios currently crafting interactive adventures that'll set the consoles firing on all cylinders, and gaming's next generation is shaping up to be brighter than a ray-traced sunset.

NINTENDO SWITCH

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Nintendo Switch™ Top Selling Game Traveler® Deluxe Travel Cases

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Deluxe Travel Case
Holds
Nintendo Switch™ or Nintendo Switch™ Lite

Adjustable Viewing Stand

Also Works With Nintendo Switch Lite

NNS61
Deluxe System Case
Holds
Nintendo Switch™ System and Accessories

Nintendo Switch™ and Nintendo Switch™ Lite Game Traveler® Action Packs

NNS82
Adjustable Viewing Stand

NLS182
Adjustable Viewing Stand

Only For Nintendo Switch Lite

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Adjustable Viewing Stand
Patents: US D851,405 S, 10702033

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WITH GREAT POWER

MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN: MILES MORALES MAKES HIS MENTOR PROUD

By Matt Cabral

WITH 2018'S *MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN*, Insomniac Games treated PlayStation 4 fans to the medium's absolute best take on the iconic wall-crawler's do-gooding, day-saving adventures. Featuring polished gameplay, absorbing storytelling, iconic villains and thrilling action—packed into a detail-drenched open-world—many consider it the best superhero video game, hands down. Regardless of where history ranks it on the inevitable "best of" lists, though, it's clear that the studio has lots to live up to following Spidey's successful PS4 debut.

Skip to *Marvel's Spider-Man: Miles Morales*, the next chapter in Insomniac's web-headed world, recently released on both the PS4 and next-generation PlayStation 5 console. The new installment retains and refines everything that worked so well in the original, while also injecting plenty of new features into the formula. Just as Miles Morales impressed Peter Parker in *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, the new game has no trouble making its mentor proud. In fact, it not only lives up to its predecessor's greatness, but surpasses its ability to put fans inside the spandex suit.

But first, let's address the Rhino in the room. Yes, *Miles Morales* is a shorter game than the original, clocking in at about half the playtime. But that's by design. Marketed as more of a universe-expanding spin-off—which is also evidenced by its lower price point—than a full-on follow-up, it allows fans to continue immersing themselves in this world until the next, numbered sequel arrives.

PLAYSTATION 5 SUPER-POWERS

Just as the *Uncharted 4: A Thief's End* expansion—*Uncharted: The Lost Legacy*—told a sizable side story, *Miles Morales* was crafted to deliver a tale spun from a larger world. But it was also built to showcase the PS5's considerable capabilities, a feat it excels at with every web

NEW DUDS
Half the fun of progressing through the game is unlocking all those iconic Spider-Man suits.

IT NOT ONLY LIVES UP TO ITS PREDECESSOR'S GREATNESS, BUT SURPASSES ITS ABILITY TO PUT FANS INSIDE THE SPANDEX SUIT.

spin, combat encounter and character interaction. While the game certainly offers a more-than-worthy superhero romp on the PS4, the next-gen console significantly ups the immersion.

For starters, the new DualSense controller redefines the idea of peripherals rumbling when the on-screen action heats up. Leveraging every ounce of its haptic feedback and adaptive trigger technology, the gamepad's impact strikes harder than any of Spider-Man's foes. Speaking of facing the game's rogues gallery, the controller comes to life with different effects depending on the delivered punch, kick, web attack or

WITH GREAT POWER COMES A GREAT REMASTER

Stalwart Spidey fans who pony up for the *Miles Morales Ultimate Launch Edition* are treated to a complete next-generation remaster of *Marvel's Spider-Man*. Sporting new assets, updates and technology, this definitive take on the 2018 classic leverages the power of the PS5 to push its visual presentation, performance and load times. It also benefits from the DualSense's bag of neat tricks.

The remaster also includes all previously released expansions as well as a trio of new suits—including the Amazing, Arachnid Rider and Armored Advanced costumes. Those who grab the standard version of *Miles Morales* on the PS5 or PS4 can also score the remaster for an additional cost. Regardless of how you get your hands on this enhanced edition, though, it makes the perfect dessert to top off the *Miles Morales* main course.

SECOND SPIDEY
Miles Morales has no problem filling the shoes—and suit—of his mentor.

FIERCE FOES Both The Underground and Roxxon Energy Corporation pose powerful new threats.

finishing move. The incredibly nuanced sensations perfectly match the unfolding, in-game chaos, whether it's erupting with feedback during an enemy's ground-scarring attack or delivering a slow, building vibration that travels across the controller as Morales' powers charge.

As impressive as the tech is at making fights feel more tangible, immediate and responsive, its ability to enhance subtler, ambient effects is even cooler. When Morales rides the subway, for example, you don't just feel an all-purpose vibration but rather the very specific, rhythmic cadence of a commuter train traveling over its tracks. Even when the humble hero receives a fist-bump from a grateful New York City civilian, the controller offers a gesture-specific jolt to mimic the motion. The adaptive triggers do their part, too, especially when Morales treats the city like his own personal playground—experiencing the tactile resistance that comes at the tail end of one of his upward swings never gets old.

The game also puts the PS5 through its paces in the visuals department. Set around the holiday season, *Miles Morales*' snowy, festive NYC is a sight to behold. As the fluffy, white stuff falls, Spidey swings between towering structures while the city below surges with life. People hustle and bustle on the sidewalks, a steady traffic flow fills the streets, glowing decorations adorn storefronts and flocks of pigeons morph into pretty silhouettes as they pass bright beams of sunlight. While we've seen similarly gorgeous graphics before, the PS5 does them one better by dynamically reflecting all this beauty in the city's puddles, windows and shiny skyscraper surfaces.

PRETTY CITY *Miles Morales*' wintry, open-world New York City really shines on the new hardware.

POWER SURGE

Of course, all the next-gen bells and whistles in the world won't make a bad game good. Thankfully, the PS5's wizardry is allowed to play a strong supporting role here, making a great game even better. What really makes *Miles Morales*' tick is its polished gameplay, a brilliant blend of familiar combat and traversal moves borrowed from the last game, mixed with a number of new tricks specific to Morales' style. Most notable are Venom attacks, a fresh set of bio-electrical powers that allow the teenage hero to deliver the sort of destruction that would make the Hulk blush. Evolved over a dedicated skill tree, the abilities include devastating punches, ground pounds capable of stunning multiple enemies and other attacks that send enemies kissing the pavement.

But Spider-Man's not the only one packing extra power, as the story's pair of primary antagonists aren't your run-of-the-mill goons. Both the mysterious Underground and corrupt Roxxon Energy Corporation are outfitted with weapons fueled by unique, anti-Spidey resources.

BIO-SHOCK
Spider-Man's new Venom powers pack a crackling, bio-electrical punch.

Even with his Venom powers at the ready, Morales frequently falls under the power of his adversaries' high-tech hardware. Luckily, the wall-crawler's also equipped with new camouflage powers, a cool toy that offers total—albeit temporary—invisibility. The sneaky trick is also evolved via a dedicated skill tree, giving stealthier players more viable options to strike from the shadows and clear entire rooms of enemies without raising any alarms.

When not busting big bads, *Miles Morales* offers ample opportunity to explore its pulsing city, accepting optional challenges, thwarting crimes-in-progress, scooping up collectibles and even rescuing the occasional cat. And everything you do—from stopping bank robberies to returning lost felines to their owners—progresses either the story or your character. The latter's especially vital, as it opens paths to accessing new upgrades, gadgets, mods and even new Spidey suits.

While the game's packed with big, epic moments and cinematic set pieces—riding Rhino through a busy shopping mall like a bucking bronco comes to mind—its storytelling and character interactions are what elevate it above your typical action-amping affairs. Morales makes a fantastic protagonist: a kind, humble hero who's fun to hang out with, while his family and friends are equally appealing. Whether strolling through a street fair with his best friend, Ganke, helping his mom prepare for Christmas dinner or reconnecting with his estranged uncle, Morales' warmth, charm and personality shine as bright as his bio-electricity superpowers.

When you combine its narrative excellence, polished gameplay, and next-gen perks, *Miles Morales* doesn't just make for a great *Spider-Man* game, but one of the year's best all-around interactive adventures.

HUMBLE HERO
Miles' kind, charming personality is as powerful as his web-spinning skills.

FORTNITE DELIVERS FOR VILLAINOUS DC FANS

Saving the day as Spider-Man certainly has its appeal, but sometimes gamers just need to indulge their naughty side. Luckily, DC, Epic Games and Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment have collaborated to deliver just what the (evil) doctor ordered. *Fortnite: The Last Laugh Bundle* brings mischief and mayhem to the popular Battle Royale game, encouraging fans of DC's iconic baddies to channel their inner antihero.

More specifically, the supervillain-themed package adds new skins, back bling and pickaxes inspired by DC's legendary gallery of rogues. Joker, Poison Ivy and Midas Rex getups land on the battlefield, while Laugh Riot, Back Bloom and Midas Crest items slot some sinister new bling into your loadout. Of course, it's the new melee weapons that pack the most menace. Whether you wield the Bad Joke, Joker's Revenge, Kingmaker and Ivy Axe to harvest materials or hammer away at your opponents, you'll make quite the, er, impact.

Toss in 1,000 V-Bucks and a slick, Pick-a-Card contrail effect, and *The Last Laugh Bundle* is a great way to spread some holiday fear this season.

MOS DEF

THE LATEST AND GREATEST IN HI-DEF FOR YOUR HOME THEATER

By Mark A. Altman

GAME OF THRONES: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION
(HBO/WARNER BROS.)
Your watch may have ended, but it's time to get back on the wall because HBO delivers its best *Game of Thrones* collection yet with this complete 4K UHD Dolby Vision version of the entire series (lacking the over-the-air broadcast compression). This essential set is filled with bonus features from the entire history of the show. *Thrones* has never looked or sounded better than in this new, definitive and feature-laden 4K edition. It's a good thing winter is coming because it'll take you that long to get through all the goodies on this fantastic new release.

THE ALFRED HITCHCOCK CLASSICS COLLECTION
(UNIVERSAL PICTURES HOME ENTERTAINMENT)
The Master of Suspense finally gets some 4K love with the release of some of his most high-profile films, including the brilliant *Rear Window,* the psychedelic *Vertigo*, the chilling *Psycho* and the thrills of *The Birds*. Laden with tons of vintage bonus features—including an uncut, extended version of *Psycho*—this set does justice to every frame of Hitchcock's classic filmmaking and stunning *mise en scène*. This is a set you'll want to say "good evening" to in your home theater, and you may even want to pull up a chair for Mother.

BACK TO THE FUTURE: THE ULTIMATE TRILOGY
(UNIVERSAL PICTURES HOME ENTERTAINMENT)
Get ready to go back in time as the *Back to the Future* Trilogy comes to 4K UHD. With all its films remastered in stunning 4K, this pristine Dolby Vision release features both Dolby Atmos and DTS-HD Master Audio Sound. And while you're escaping from the Libyans, you'll be delighted to discover over an hour of new bonus features about the classic films, along with a bevy of vintage supplemental content. Get it now before it fades away.

THE GOONIES
(WARNER BROS.)
Home video hasn't been kind to this '80s classic in the past, but Warner Bros. finally gets it right with this great new release of the beloved Richard Donner classic featuring a young Josh Brolin, Sean Astin and Corey Feldman. Although bonus features are slim, the movie has never looked or sounded better in a new DTS-HD Master Audio mix. This is a treasure you don't need a map to find. Goonies forever!

300
(WARNER BROS.)
Director Zack Snyder's acclaimed adaptation of Frank Miller's retelling of the Battle of Thermopylae comes to 4K UHD with a stunning Ultra HD premium transfer, muscular Dolby Atmos mix and a bunch of re-purposed bonus features, including deleted scenes and commentary from Snyder.

Listen to Mark A. Altman's film commentary every week on The 4:30 Movie, available wherever you listen to podcasts.

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TYLER HOECHLIN

BASEBALL TO SUPERMAN

By Edward Gross

MAN OF STEEL Tyler Hoechlin is Superman in the CW's *Superman and Lois*.

THE CAPE HAS BEEN HANDED OFF, and actor Tyler Hoechlin has gratefully accepted it as he prepares for the February launch of the new CW TV series, *Superman & Lois*. As such, he becomes the sixth actor to star in a Superman show in live action, following George Reeves (*Adventures of Superman*), John Haymes Newton and Gerard Christopher (*The Adventures of Superboy*), Dean Cain (*Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*) and Tom Welling (*Smallville*).

As to the best thing about playing Superman—which he's done on *Supergirl* and various "Arrowverse" crossovers—he suggests, "Reminding yourself that it's OK to be hopelessly optimistic, even when people don't always give you the reason to believe it. I think at the end of the day, believing in redemption and believing that we're all going to find a way to be better is the *only* way to move forward. I like that."

Growing up, Hoechlin, 33, was driven by a passion for baseball, which he truly believed would be his vocation, despite the fact that, at age 15, he earned praise for his performance in Tom Hanks' *The Road to Perdition*.

"I started playing when I was about seven, but I was never one of those kids who felt like I was being forced to play. Baseball was a natural fit for me; acting was a really random situation."

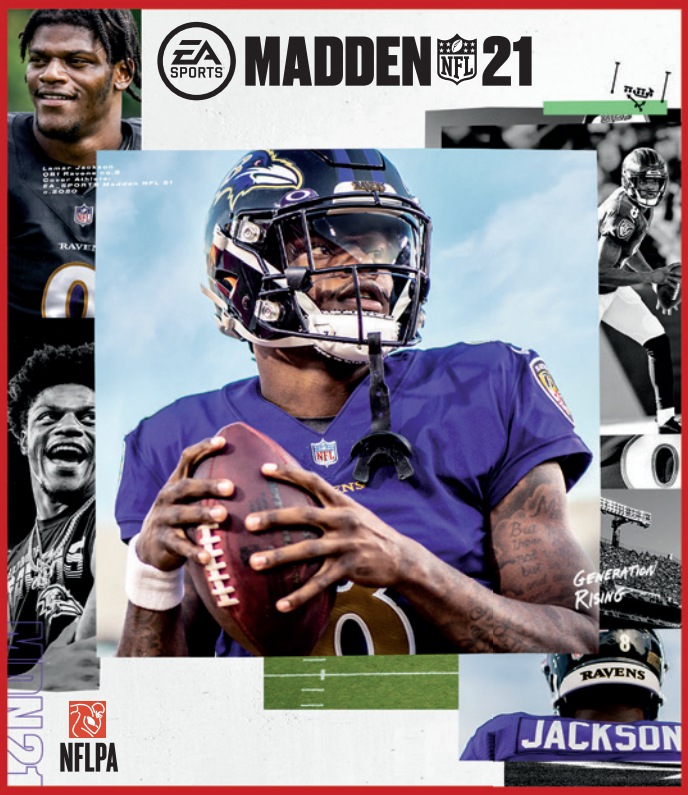
He played so well that it resulted in a scholarship to Arizona State, where he played for a year before transferring to University of California, Irvine to play for two years. "The only reason I played for all those years was that I wanted to play professional baseball. I turned down multiple jobs and meetings because of it."

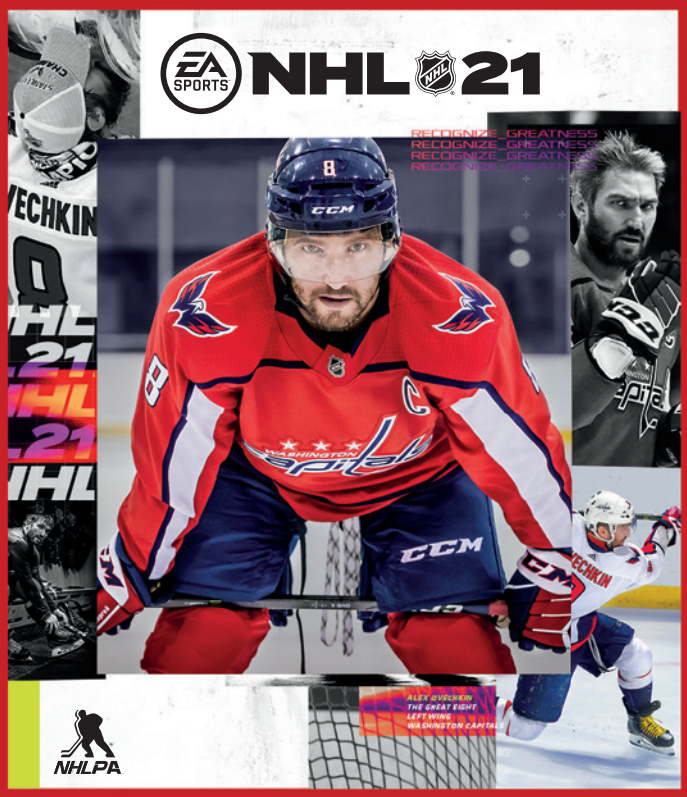
A pulled hamstring in his junior year changed everything, especially when he found himself on the bench because of the injury, but still required to be at practice and games, and was auditioning at the same time. His coach praised his potential in baseball and acting, but drove home the point that he could only succeed in one. The decision he made was obvious and has, indeed, paid off, with starring roles in *7th Heaven* and *Teen Wolf*, among many other TV and film appearances. And now, of course, there is *Superman & Lois*.

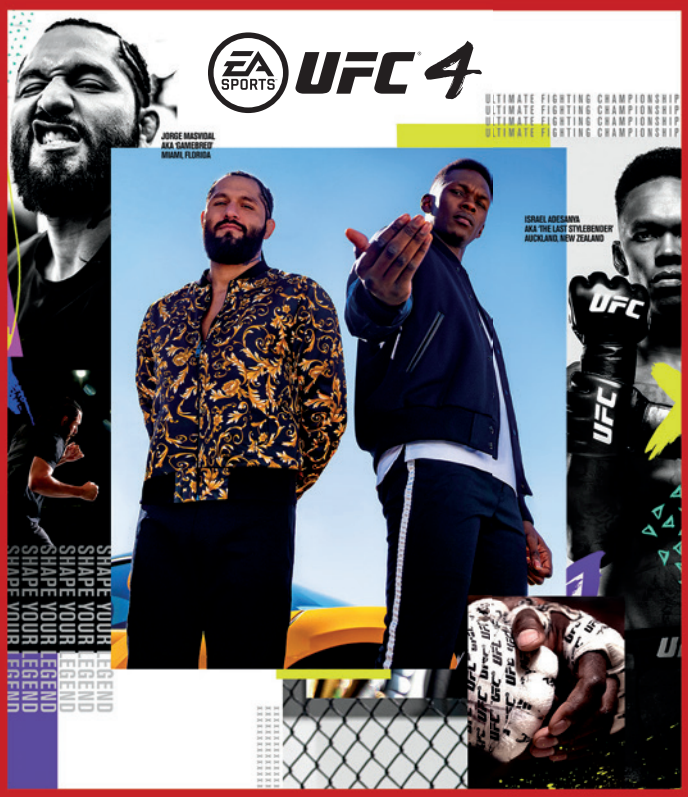
Believing in redemption and believing that we're all going to find a way to be better is the only way to move forward.

Hoechlin got a sense of the importance of what he's doing when a production assistant on set brought over four kids—two boys and two girls. "I had the suit on," he smiles, "they come over and their eyes just light up. For 10 minutes I was, like, 'Oh, my God, to these kids I *am* Superman. They don't know my name, they don't know who I am, they don't know what I've done. They have no idea.' I couldn't love that more. It was so great I could make these kids' day, and it has nothing to do with me. It's just I'm the guy wearing the 'S' and that's it. That was such a cool experience to be able to do that for them. Then, selfishly, as an actor it was really informative because I went, 'You know what? That's who this guy is. He's there to make kids feel like they can do anything, they can be anyone, that good triumphs over evil.'

"It also kind of reminds us to be a kid again and have that kind of incredibly hopeful, optimistic outlook before we turn cynical when we get older," Hoechlin closes. "That's what I started falling toward as a character: wanting kids to think that that optimistic view that you have when you're a kid of what the world can be, that we can still make it that—regardless of how many times the world tells us we can't."







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